



Transit Committee Minutes

**Regular Meeting
November 3, 2015**

Attending:

Committee Members: Dave Erb, Calvin Allen, Adam Charnack, Tom Tomlin, Julie Mayfield, Bruce Emory

City/ART Staff: Yuri Koslen, Sean Spiller, Rose Christian, Diane Allen

Community Members: Amy Cantrell, Sabrah n'haRaven, Vicki Meath, James Gambrell, Trevon Dunn, Nancy Sanders, P. R. Limeri

3:33 pm - Opening of Meeting

Julie opened the meeting.

6 October 2015 Minutes - Bruce moved to approve, Calvin seconded, unanimous in favor.

3:36 pm - Public Comment I

Vicki Meath provided copies of Just Economics input for the management company RFP. Yuri clarified that RFP is on target for end of year, and that JE's input is in the hands of the appropriate staff. Amy Cantrell relayed People's Voice's deep concern about deferred maintenance and bus breakdowns, which they view as a serious safety issue, and urged City staff and First Transit to come together to resolve them now, not wait for the new RFP. Yuri and Rose stated that, while the inconvenience from breakdowns is real and important, buses don't go out if there is any safety concern. They related the further concern that the market for hiring mechanics is very tight right now, and they are struggling to offer competitive salaries under the terms of the existing contract.

James Gambrell related experience of doors coming open while underway, and emphasized the importance of on-time performance to people's jobs and lives.

3:49 pm - TC Experiences Riding the Bus

Adam related that N was running on the wrong half hour on Halloween Saturday, and that the information on the NextBus app was extremely unclear in that situation. Diane Allen stated that the N driver made an error that day, and went to Grove Park twice in the same hour.

Calvin said that N3 has tended to be very late during early mornings the last few weeks.

3:58 pm – Unfinished Business

Fare Changes and Public Meetings:

Six public comment meetings will be held 30 November through 10 December, concerning fare changes, discount form, and paratransit eligibility form. MMTC passed a motion at its last meeting to raise cash fare to \$1.25 and monthly pass to \$25.

TC Applicants:

Four applications received. TC members voted to invite all four (Anthony Mitchell, Gary Ray, Valarie Macklin, Lauren Noto) to join the Committee.

Management Company RFP:

Tom was designated at an earlier meeting as the TC representative during the drafting of the RFP. Julie asked if we are doing anything different to address the concerns that have led to the need for a new RFP, and requested that Staff provide a bullet point list of the changes made to address the concerns.

TC Goals:

Expanding Service - nothing new to report.

Increasing Funding - white paper will go to MMTC sometime early in 2016

Marketing and Education - no report

MMTC Update:

City planning to change downtown signal timing to give pedestrians more time for crossings. Bruce reminded people of DOT public meeting re: I-26, beginning with open house at 4:00pm, with formal presentation at 7:00pm on 16 November at Renaissance Hotel.

4:20 pm – New Business

Policy Recommendations for Council:

Council has requested that boards and commissions make high-level policy recommendations for consideration at Council's retreat. Julie recommended that City be willing to acquire property from private owners for hard infrastructure like landing pads at bus stops. Staff would like to be able to require appropriate multimodal facilities in projects proposed for development levels 1-3 and campus-wide developments. Dave requested that early-stage planning meetings include encouragement to locate projects on bus lines (and not expect that bus lines will be extended after the fact). Vicki Meath suggested offering multimodal amenities as incentives to appropriately located developments. Sabrah n'haRaven emphasized the one mile requirement on many grants for affordable housing. Staff also suggested the development ordinance include a menu of options for parking rather than just straight requirements in order to encourage other options.

CIP Transit Projects FY17:

Transportation Department's capital improvement project list is in order of Staff's priority. Yuri said that hybrid battery pack replacement is getting the highest scores in the rating system being used to assess funding order. List includes one new bus in FY17 and five in FY18.

TMP Implementation Alternatives FY17:

Staff requests that any increased TMP implementation funding go to bolster operations (First Transit) staff at this time. Rose stated that operations needs about \$500K to implement what they want to do. Several TC members requested a more detailed list of Staff's proposed use of funds, due to importance of route and hours augmentation. Bruce requested that the new contract be written to make Good Friday a normal service day, rather than a holiday, since ridership numbers indicate normal weekday usage levels.

4:59 pm – Staff Updates

Yuri highlighted transit-related items on the list of project updates. Adam raised concern about pedestrian signals not working. Julie mentioned that DOT recently re-timed signals, but City is working to get them timed more appropriately for a city setting.

TMP RFP is in process.

5:12 pm - Public Comment II

Vicki Meath expressed strong dismay at unsatisfactory response from First Transit about maintenance issues; urged TC to check the data. Just Economics has reports from multiple drivers that contradict Rose's comments. Data sheets do indicate significant number of missed revenue miles.

5:15 pm – Future Agenda Items

advertising policy (defer to Spring), management company RFP, feedback from 30 November public hearing on fares, budget, election of TC officers

5:15 pm – Meeting Adjourned